



# TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2023

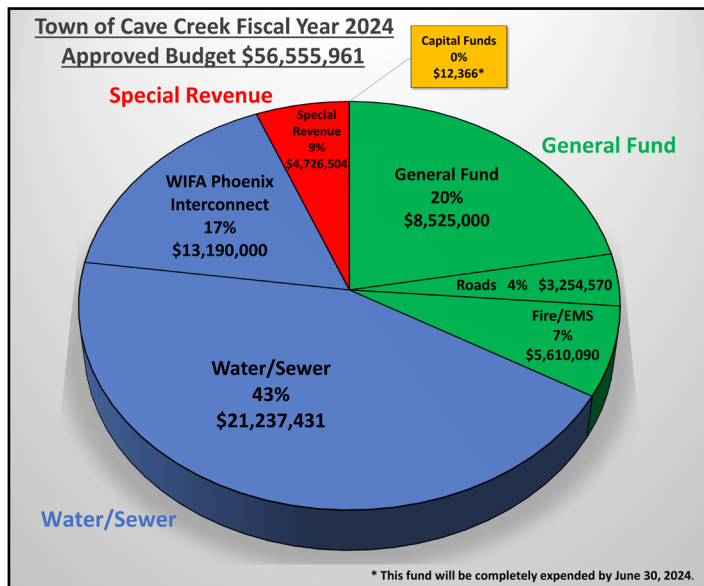
### MESSAGE FROM TOWN OF CAVE CREEK MAYOR, BOB MORRIS



One of the most important responsibilities of the Cave Creek Town Council is our fiduciary duty. Overseeing the contents and approving the final version of our annual Budget sets the stage for how effectively the Town operates and accomplishes its goals.

The Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) Budget is a structurally balanced spending plan that will preserve our strong financial foundation and provide the resources we need to deliver high-quality public services to our community.

I am happy to report that after two work study sessions and three Council meetings to publicly discuss the contents and merit of the programs being proposed, the FY2024 Budget was approved by a majority of the Council on June 5, 2023, in the amount of \$56,555,961. This amount includes state and federal grant applications and FY2024 capital expenditures within the Town's FY2024-2028 capital improvement plan. The approved budget amount becomes the Town's expenditure limit for FY2024. Expenditures can be moved or reduced but the overall total expenditures cannot be increased.



The best news is that bonds from our utility acquisition and expansion are nearly repaid. Once reaching more than \$66 million, the debt will be reduced to about \$21 million after the July 1 payment is made.

#### Strategic Planning

In January 2023, the Council's two-day Strategic Planning retreat initiated and guided the budget development process. Council and Staff focused on setting goals for each of the five

categories within the Town's Strategic Plan:

- 1.) Public Streets, Safety, and Services
- 2.) Community Culture
- 3.) Water Supplies and Infrastructure
- 4.) Financial Viability
- 5.) Governance

We prioritized large capital projects including upgrades to our fire station as well as securing our Central Arizona Project (CAP) water distribution system via an interconnection with Phoenix. Particular attention was paid to allocating significant funding for traffic and pedestrian safety measures, road paving projects, and revitalizing our Town Core medians and pathways. All the elements in the Strategic Plan closely align with Cave Creek's General Plan, which was approved by voters in 2021.

#### Sustaining the Organization

Revenue from local sales taxes, state-shared revenues, fees, and construction sales taxes primarily support the Town's operations and maintenance activities. Numerous items in the Budget relate to successfully maintaining a high-functioning governmental organization, including employee compensation and benefits, fire services, and water and wastewater utilities in both Cave Creek and Desert Hills.

As many residents know, the Town created its own fire department in 2021 without resorting to a property tax. Other projects found within this Budget cover much needed and long overdue infrastructure improvements. Looking to the future, we remain cautiously optimistic that our revenues will remain strong.

Through collaboration, professionalism, productivity, and fiscal stewardship, we are able to accomplish the goals we set for ourselves. We are proud of these results and are confident that our community supports our efforts and priorities.

Thank you for your interest in how our Town is managed and governed. Transparency is key. Please let me know how we can improve and further exceed your expectations by contacting me at [Mayor@CaveCreekAZ.gov](mailto:Mayor@CaveCreekAZ.gov).

For Budget details, please visit [CaveCreekAZ.gov/Budget](https://CaveCreekAZ.gov/Budget).

**See inside for information on fire and heat awareness, how to stay informed about the Town, monsoon season tips, the new Online Permit Process, and our Local Landmark Program.**

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## FIRE AWARENESS - EXTREME FIRE DANGER LEVEL

With temperatures well over 100 degrees every day, it's definitely summer out there. Cave Creek's fire danger level is set to EXTREME and for all our safety Stage II fire restrictions are in effect. We want to avoid a repeat of our fires in 2020, which were both human caused.

**Per Town Code, Stage II restrictions include (but are not limited to):**



- No smoking in any outside area with combustible ground cover, outside of vehicles, residential yards, or designated smoking areas
- No spark-generating activities outside of an enclosed building without first obtaining a permit and inspection from the Town, including welding, grinding, braising, or cutting steel
- All current building permits must call for and pass an inspection of the area prior to undertaking any spark generating activities outside on an enclosed structure
- All spark generating activities shall be prohibited during days declared to have a red flag warning for the area
- Wood burning for cooking, warming, or campfires, or the use of charcoal in all areas is prohibited
- The use of Tiki Torches or other devices that emit a flame is prohibited

Prepare your homes with fire breaks and defensible space: [CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace](https://cavecreekaz.gov/DefensibleSpace)

Register for Cave Creek CodeRED Alerts: [CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED](https://cavecreekaz.gov/CodeRED)

For more information, visit: [CaveCreekAZ.gov/582/Fire-Restrictions-Stage-1-Stage-2](https://cavecreekaz.gov/582/Fire-Restrictions-Stage-1-Stage-2)

## HEAT AWARENESS - SUMMER HIKING

The Town of Cave Creek is known for our copious open space and outstanding trails. In an effort to have a safer hiking season this year, we added signs at trailheads, a helicopter pad at Spur Cross, and a new quad 4 wheeler has been implemented to rescue those that need it.

**The heat of summer is not the best time to be hiking in the desert, but if you must, please keep these tips in mind:**

- Start out and return early, when the worst heat of the day has not yet set in.
- Let someone know where and when you'll be hiking.
- Hike with at least one other person.
- Select the correct hike difficulty and length for your ability (know your physical condition).
- Wear a light-weight, long sleeve shirt, cool long pants, and a hat that protects your face.
- Apply sunscreen (preferably SPF 50)
- Wear appropriate closed hiking shoes.
- Carry plenty of water, and then hydrate often.
- Turn around after you have consumed half of your water.
- Watch for heat exhaustion symptoms such as headache, nausea, feeling faint, and excessive sweating. These symptoms can lead to the much more serious heat stroke.
- Have a phone or some type of communication device in the event that you need help.
- Put your phone in "airplane mode" to help save the battery.
- Carry a hiking whistle (many areas don't have cell service).
- Let your contact person know when you've returned from your hike.

## STAY INFORMED WITH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITE, AND THE NEW CREEKBOT

Ever wonder what that roadwork on Carefree Highway is or when the next local event will be? The best way to stay informed about what's going on around Town is to like and follow us on social media and/or check our website regularly. The Town of Cave Creek is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). Also, on our website's homepage at [CaveCreekAZ.gov](https://cavecreekaz.gov) is where important news can be found in the "News & Announcements" section. Emergency Alerts will be posted along the website's banner. There's also a calendar toward the bottom of the page with local events with their date, time, and location.

Our website also has a handy new feature: **CreekBot**. CreekBot is a Virtual Assistant that can help you search our site for answers to your questions. It's located in the bottom right corner of the website. Give it a try! The more it gets asked, the more it learns. Town staff can also see what is being asked, so we can be alerted to what information you want to know and make sure those answers are more readily available.

# AUGUST 2023

## MONSOON SEASON AND FLOODING

Arizona's monsoon season begins in mid-June and continues through mid-September. With it comes higher humidity, which can lead to thunderstorms, heavy rain, lightning, hail, high winds, flash flooding, dust storms, and extreme heat. This year's monsoon has been forecasted to have drier-than-normal conditions with above-normal temperatures.

A general rule for monsoon season is to expect the unexpected!

### Stay safe with these tips:



- Resist the temptation to drive through flooded areas, such as washes. The water could be deeper than it appears!
- Turn around, don't drown! If you must drive and encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and go another way.
- Beware: just six inches of water can send most cars spinning out of control. Even a few inches can flood or wash a car away (including SUVs and pickups).
- Barricades, including "Road Closed" signs are there for a reason. Don't try to drive around them.
- Don't stand under a tree (or a cactus) in a lightning storm.
- Don't attempt to drive through a dust storm. Pull over and wait it out. Visibility can quickly turn to nothing. When in doubt, wait it out! Get to a safe area as far off the roadway as possible.
- Create an emergency supply kit in case of a prolonged power outage. The pack should contain non-perishable food items, a can opener, water, a first-aid kit, a battery operated radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a portable phone charger and any necessary medication.

## NEW ONLINE PERMIT PROCESS

The Town of Cave Creek has a new Permit Applications & Inspection Portal where you can submit for permits at the Development Services Department of the Town of Cave Creek. The Portal also allows you to fill out and submit an "Owner Authorization Form" to give a contractor permission to submit an application for you.

**Permit Applications that you can now submit for online include:**

Water Heater Permits, Solar Permits, Fire Alarms/Fire Sprinkler Permits, Pool/Spa Permits, Demolition, Single Family Residence or Guest House, Commercial Tenant Improvement/Change of Occupancy, Commercial Building, Residential Remodel/Addition/Accessory Structure. Each permit has a different list of documents you'll be required to upload, which is listed in the new application toward the bottom. It may be wise to check that you have all these before you begin.

To access the Portal and get started on submitting a permit: Go to the Town website: [CaveCreekAZ.gov](https://cavecreekaz.gov). Hover above the "Departments" tab and go over to "Development Services" and click on the link. Once you're on the "Development Services" page, you'll notice a link to the "Permit Applications and Inspection Portal" on the left side panel. Clicking that link will open a new page which has online submittals for permit applications. Scroll down to the "Permit Applications" section. Under "Permit Applications" are all our small type permits for citizens and contractors to submit. All these Permits require much the same information.

You can visit our Video Library for a step-by-step tutorial on the permit submittal process here: [CaveCreekAZ.gov/VideoLibrary](https://cavecreekaz.gov/VideoLibrary).

We hope you find this new, convenient way to submit your permits easy and helpful!





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### TOWN OF CAVE CREEK CONTACTS

Town Hall Main Line: 480-488-6600  
Utilities Main Line: 480-488-6620  
Utilities *after hours* (emergency line only): 602-667-4574  
Engineering/Public Works: 480-488-6630  
Development Services Department  
Permits: 480-488-6622  
Zoning: 480-488-6633

#### For Emergencies Dial 911

#### Public Safety (Non-Emergency) Numbers:

Town Marshal's Office: 480-488-6636  
Maricopa County Sheriffs Dept: 602-876-1000  
Cave Creek Fire Station: 623-465-7400  
Cave Creek Fire + Medical Services Information: 480-437-3583  
Maricopa County Animal Control: 602-506-7387  
Snake Removal: 602-253-1191

### LOCAL LANDMARKS PROGRAM

The Town of Cave Creek was delighted to add several establishments to our Local Landmark program recently, including the American Legion Post 34, Buffalo Chip Saloon, Cave Creek Museum, Desert Foothills Library, El Encanto, The Horny Toad, and Indian Village. Cave Creek Local Landmarks are iconic buildings and spaces in Town recognized by a bronze plaque award. It's these and all Cave Creek businesses that contribute to keeping the great Town of Cave Creek running full steam ahead. More Local Landmarks planned for this year include: Black Mountain Feed, and Le Sans Souci French Restaurant.



#### REGISTER FOR CAVE CREEK EMERGENCY ALERTS

[CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED](https://CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED)